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CONVICTION IN PRECIOUS METAL FRAUD SCHEME

United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott announced today that a Federal Jury in Sacramento returned a verdict finding defendant TROY URIE, 35, of San Jose, California, guilty of both conspiracy to commit mail fraud, as well as seven counts of wire fraud. In addition, the jury also specifically found that Urie was personally liable for a loss of over \$1M, that he was a manager or supervisor in the criminal scheme, and that he obstructed justice by perjuring himself at trial.

This case was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

According to Assistant U.S. Attorney James P. Arguelles, who prosecuted the case, the indictment charged that during the period of October through December of 2003, TROY URIE, along with co-defendants Gabriel Orji, Katie McGuire, and Nicodemus Blanchard, was part of a conspiracy to defraud and obtain property from victims Sanmina-SCI Corporation ("SSCI"), a technology company headquartered in San Jose, and Englehard Corporation ("Englehard"), a New Jersey company which sells precious metals. The object of the conspiracy was to cause Englehard to ship, by private or commercial interstate carrier, approximately \$11 million in precious metals from New Jersey to a facility located on Northgate Blvd. in Sacramento, which was under the control of URIE and his co-conspirators.

Evidence at trial showed that during the first part of November of 2003, defendant URIE made the arrangements to lease the warehouse facility located at 4640 Northgate Blvd. in Sacramento. Specifically, URIE purchased the cashier's check to pay the first month's rent on the warehouse, and directed co-defendant McGUIRE when and where to pick up the keys and the lease for the warehouse under an assumed name. URIE also helped set up the warehouse, which included the placing of bogus SSCI signs outside of the premises. The evidence also demonstrated that URIE directed co-defendants McGUIRE and BLANCHARD to periodically occupy the warehouse in anticipation of the delivery of the shipment from Englehard. The scheme was taken down on December 2, 2003, when Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation arranged for the controlled delivery of a pallet, which was filled with buckets of sand, to be delivered to the warehouse at 4640 Northgate Blvd.

U.S. District Court Judge Frank C. Damrell, Jr. set judgment and sentencing for URIE for

November 22, 2004, and ordered that URIE, who was initially remanded to the custody of the U.S. Marshal during the trial following his testimony, remain in custody.

Co-defendants KATIE McGUIRE, 22, NICODEMUS BLANCHARD, 22, and GABRIEL ORJI, 53, all of Reno, Nevada, all previously pleaded guilty to one count of conspiracy to commit mail fraud. ORJI was sentenced to forty-six months incarceration on July 12, 2004, and judgment and sentencing for both McGUIRE and BLANCHARD has been set before Judge Damrell for September 13, 2004.

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